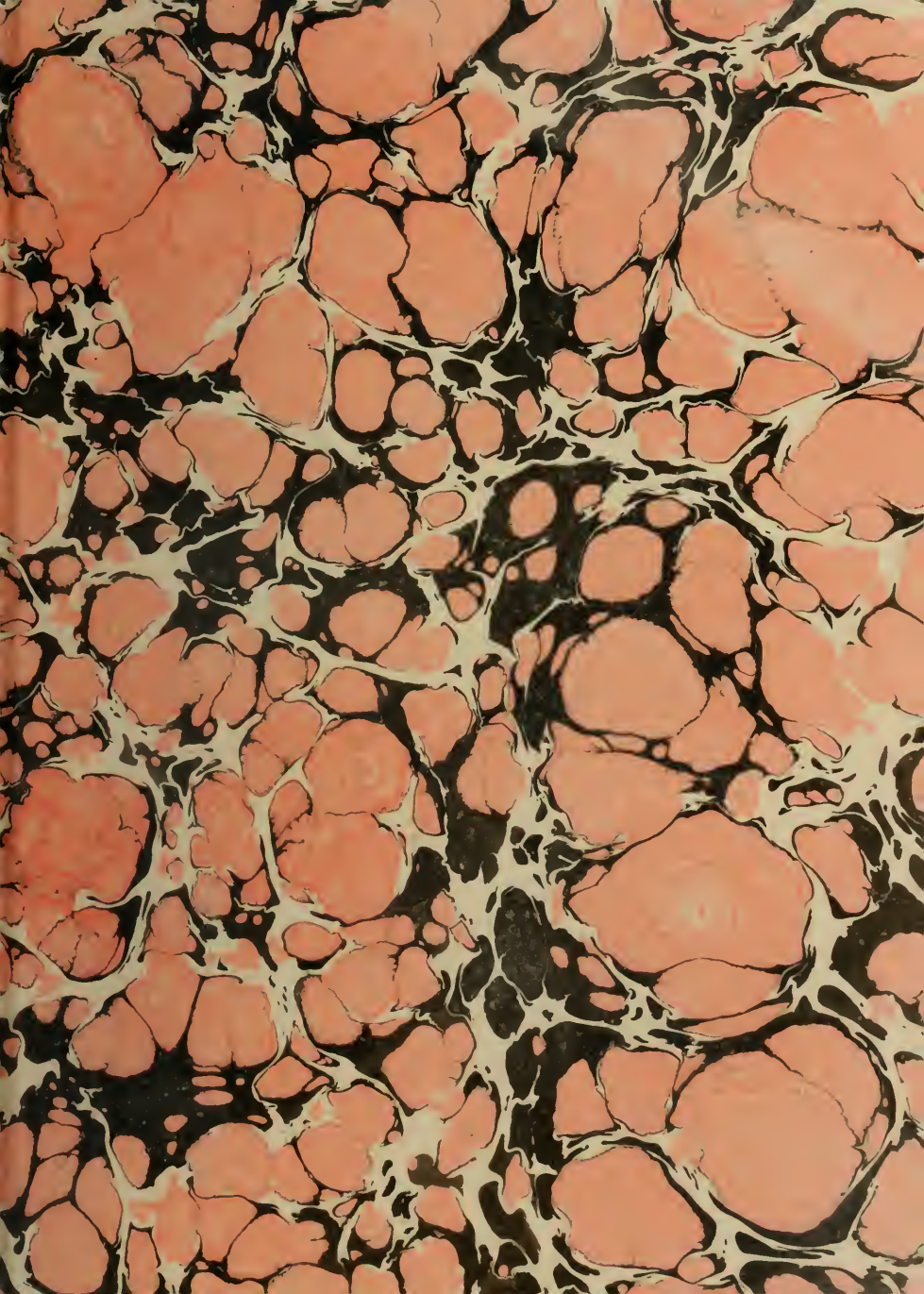

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LEX TALIONIS.

OR,

A Declamation against Mr. CHALLENER,

The Crimes of the Times, and the Manners of You know whom.

In quo quis peccat, in eo punitur.

——Nec Lex est justior ulla,
Quam necis artifices arte perire sua.

JUDGES 1. *verſ.* 7.

And Adonibezek said. As I have done; so God hath requited me.

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A DECLAMATION

Against Mr. CHALLENER,

The Crimes of the Times, and the Manners of *You know whom.*

WHat *Cicero* said to *Cataline*, and his Confederates in their Conspiracie; I say the same to Master *Challener*, that hee may tell it to his Companions in the Covenant,

Quousq; tandem abutêre patientiâ nostrâ?

It must never be forgotten how those venerable Women came in simplicity of heart, to the Parliament at *Westminster* to sue for Peace.

It must never be forgotten to all Posterity in what measure those innocent Women were dealt withall by you; some being cruelly wounded, some most barbarously slaine.

Will neither the feare of God? nor love to Mankind? nor your affections to your native Country move you (at least) to a charitable compassion? if not to a sorrowfull compunction?

Will not the bloud of my Lord of *Strafford*; Nor the bloud of my Lord of *Canterbury*; Nor the bloud of *Tomkins* and *Challoner*, Nor the bloud of *Yeomans* and *Boucher*? Nor all the innocent bloud of so many thou-

ſands, which have beene ſacrificed in theſe late inteſtine broyles, provoke you to ſeeke Peace, nor invite you to embrace Peace, when it is ſo freely offered unto you. *O Tempora! O Mores!*

In the ſharp language of *Cicero*, I did begin with you, and in the blunt honeſtie of *Cato*, I intend to proceed.

As the baſe and ſpungie offall of man (being the common ſewer of indigeſted excrements) can by no meanes returne backe any nouriſhment into the more nobler part, the Stomacke, from whence it firſt received it; no more can the body poſſibly ſubſiſt and live without the influence, and diſtillation from its native and proper head.

And as in Bodies Natural, ſo in Politick, King *Charles* is the eſſentiall head, of our Pollitique Body, He is the true Lord and owner of theſe his Kingdomes by right of Inheritance, He holds his Title in Fee-ſimple, by the bleſſed *Tenour in capite*, from God Almighty, who is *Lord Paramount* of all. To God alone is the King onely obliged to pay his Homage, and oweth not the ſmalleſt *Quit-rent* whatſoever to my Lord Chancellor of *Scotland* his *Machivillian* Eloquence, nor to Mr. *Challener* his home-ſpun ſlovenly malice.

It is a bold Aſſertion between you both, to enter into a ſaucy diſpute about the diſpoſing of the Sacred perſon of the King, as if he were a Child, a Ward, or an Ideot; when God can beare him witneſſe, Hee hath more Wit, more Judgement, and more Honeſtie in Him, then any of you all, or all of you together.

Here let me interpoſe with my ſhort, and true definition of him, both as He is a Man, and as He is our King: As He is a Man, me thinks I heare my Saviour ſaluting him, as He did *Nathanael*, *Behold a man indeed in whom there is no guile.* And all the world that knowes him

must acknowledge with the Poet, He is *Homo intiger vitæ, scelerisq; purus*, and I wish to God, from my heart, I could say the same of any of you.

Now as He is our King, how can both Houses, as M. *Challener* saith; or how can both Kingdoms, as my Lord Chancellor of *Scotland* would have it? dare to take upon them to dispose of him, who hath under God the sole dispossall of us all, with this limitation; with the joynt consent, and wholesome advise of the honest and great Councell of each Kingdome, and this is both Law and Gospell.

Inconsistent and incompatible are two very good words, if rightly applyed, but I am bound to beleeve the Devill himselfe did work very strongly upon Master *Challeners* weaknesse, rather then that his owne naturall *Genius* could be possest with such a Malignancy of spirit, as to make so vilde, so base, and so ungodly an application of them both.

I had almost forgotten that remarkable Badge of your through Reformation, I meane your Covenant, and the two notorious Commitees of both Kingdoms: Give me leave to tell you, what your Covenant was at first, and what it now is; It was at first by vertue of Inchantment, a lowsie thread-bare *Scotch* Chaplin, who growing weary of the slender stipend of a bare *Scotch* Mark *per annum* came over into *England* to seek 'its further Advancment, where it became a Tub-preacher, and so rendring it selfe uncapable of holy Orders, did take upon it to preach and teach on its own accord.

The first attempt by which this Covenant sought to ingratiate it selfe into the people, was by consummating a marriage betwixt the two Commitees of both Kingdomes. The match was privately contracted in the

close Commitee, and afterwards solemnly published by Legislative power; which marriage being thus accomplished without th'approabtion of his Matie, without the License of our Church: and without the consent of our Laws, I doubt not but it may easily be made null by a bill of divorce, and for the farther punishment of this Inchanted Chaplaine your Covenant, let it be banished out of this Kingdome for ever, and let it be confined to the utmost part of Scotland, there to pine, and waste it self away upon its owne dunghill, or else let it be presently torne in pieces, in remembrance of the dispite which was lately done to the Kings broad Seal in the presence of both Houses.

And whereas Mr. *Challener* saith, the Houses are accomptable to none but God Almighty. I must answer him, with these few Questions.

Who called, or caused you to be a Parliament? Was it not by the Soveraigne power of the King?

Who convened the House of Commons together? Was it not by the free suffrages, and elections of the people? Can the servants be greater then their masters?

Did the King and we conferre this trust, and Authority upon you? thus to Lord it over us? I tell you nay, for unlesse you speedily returne unto your wonted Allegiance to his Maiestie, and your durifull affections towards us, both he and wee shall suddainly call you to a strict accompt.

Read over the Chronicles, where you shall find two Knights of the Shire were called to an Accompt by the Counties, for which they had formerly served in Parliament; and both of them were hanged up for their labours.

What are you so transported, and puft up with pride

by

by reason of your many successes, you have lately gotten in your new Modell of War; Must you needs stand upon your Tiptoes, and think you dance in a Net, doe but tell me of one Ordinance you have made which speakes the least sillable tending to a Reformation?

The King hath made an absolute Reformation of all abuses done under his Government, and like a gracious Prince gave us a Trienniall Parliament to boo'e. But a Trienniall Parliament will not serve your turnes, you must needs have an everlasting Parliament, *Quis talia fando temperet a lacrimis*; for with horror I speak it, as you have handled the matter, nothing stands so much in need of a thorough Reformation, as your everlasting Parliament. For if the King and you should be reconciled to morrow; and that He, and you should joyn together, to governe us by an everlasting Parliament: Wee whose Ancestors have ever been the freest Subjects under heaven, should become the meer'st slaves upon the face of the earth.

Beware of *Lex talionis*.

To explaine my selfe, I never did heare nor read of any Prince, any great man, nor any great body of a Councell, dare to doe any Act illegall or extrajudiciall, But God Almighty did either retaliate it with his owne immediate vengeance, or else they were met withall by the knowne laws of the Land, in a condigne punishment.

Sir *John Hotham*, and his son have tasted of the one already: And take you heed, least some, if not all of you, doe not at last feele the smart of the other,

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

To prevent the like ensuing dangers which must needs fall upon our heads; I will give you these three remarkable examples of *Lex talionis*.

1. In

1. In the dayes of K. *Henry* the 8. The Lord Chancellor *Cromwell* perſwaded the King, that by vertue of his prerogative, he might put any man to death, and bring it to a tryall at law afterwards, and did not the ſame *Lex talionis* light upon him, when he was the onely man that died ſo?

2. *Barnavill* the chiefe Advocate of *Holland*, and one of the States, conceived a diſpleaſure againſt a younker, and nothing would ſerve his turne (though it were in his owne cauſe) but corporall puniſhment. The priviledge of the Gentlemans birth was pleaded by his Lawyers; Notwithſtanding *Barnavill* being prevalent with the Board of States, perſwaded them; It would be an addition to their greatneſſe to make a Preſident in this kinde, and ſo a Preſident was made, and the Gentleman was whipt.

Not long after a Competition grew betwixt the Prince of *Orenge*, and great *Barnavill*, wherein the Prince having the Military party of his ſide, got the better of him, ſo that *Barnavill* was confined; and by the ſame rule of *Barnavills* formerly making a Preſident, to whip that Gentleman, a Preſident was made to cut off his head; ther's *Lex talionis* for him.

3. My Lord of *Strafford*, when he was Sir *Thomas Wentworth*, and Oracle of the Houſe of Commons, perſwaded them, there was no other way to cut off the Duke of *Buckingham*, but by accuſing him of States ſuggeſtions, under the name of high Treaſon; by which meanes if they could once ſequeſter him from the Kings elbow by confinement; He doubted not but accuſations would come enough againſt him, to his further deſtruction, and did not the ſame *Lex talionis* light upon him. *Jam proximus ardet Ucaligon.* It is high time then for

for every man severally, and all of us together joyntly to looke about us, least *Lex talionis* overtake us.

The degenerate House of Lords have altogether declined their true fountain of Honour, the King; from whose cleare streames they had wont to suck both there honour and honesty, by his vertuous example: And these pittifull Lords, having throwne themselves into mire, and muddy Affections of the Common Rabble, are now glad to drink of the puddle water of scorne, and contempt from the meanest Rascalls; Ther's *Lex talionis* in part for them.

The adulterate House of Commons have so deviated from the honest principles, and integrity of their Ancestors, and having left their righteous middle way; in which they had wont to walke in; Tire themselves out with halting between two cripples, two contraries of extreames: for which their black Consciences, they are forc'd to sit down, some leaning to the Presbyterian madnesse on the one side; some to the Independent folly on the other; Ther's *Lex talionis* in part for them.

The proud Metropolis of this Kingdome, the City of *London* of all other cannot escape Scot-free, for this Citie hath beene from the beginning the venerable Bawd to all the Parliaments designes. It hath fed them with million upon million, upon the publike Faith, by which meanes it manifesteth it selfe to be the cheife fomenter of this unnaturall War, and the grand Abettor in this unhappy difference betwixt King, and people.

It is still fresh in memorie, how this City sent forth its spurious scum in multitudes to cry downe Bishops, roote, and branch, who like sholes of Herrings, or swarmes of Hornets, lay hovering about the Court with lying Pamphlets, and scandalous Pasquills, untill they for'd the King from his throne, and banisht the

Queene from His Bed, and afterwards out of this Kingdome; besides this City still continues to this day dancing attendance with their Traine bands, to guard the causeleſſe feares, and jealouſies of both Houſes: they come creeping with their Petitions to them, whom they might command: would they but command their Bands to ſtay at home, they may thank themſelves for all the delayes, and denyalls, they have received.

What ſ uerdon hath this City got for all its coſts and paines? I will tell it, This City is ſtiled in the worlds opinion, the *Parliaments Aſſe*, on whoſe backe the Members of both Houſes ride at pleaſure, laying on load upon load, what they think fit. Now good City, if you muſt continue ſtill to be an Aſſe, learne of your Predeceſſor, *Balaams* Aſſe, and tell your great maſters, they have gone aſtray, tell them ſo freely, for they dare not beate you for it as *Balaam* did.

Oh my poore Countrey, miſerable Countrey wretched Countrey, that hath theſe five yeares paſt in innocencie, drunk of this bitter cup, the dregs whereof is reſerved in ſtore by *Lex talionis* for the ſtupid, ſenſeleſſe City of *London*. *If thou haaſt known, even thou, at leaſt in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes*, Luk 19. *verſ*. 42.

Much might be ſaid concerning the Prince Elector, but little ſhall ſerve the turne, *Singratum dixeris, omnia*. He hath gotten the repute of late to become a precious Babe of Grace, by his Princely faculty of ſnuffing up the Back-breath of the Reverend Synod, and in a blind devotion takes it for incenſe; He, good man, not conſidering his Royall Unkle, nor his owne peculiar intereſt, which he might juſtly challenge to himſelfe in *Germany*, but contents himſelfe here with my Lord *Peters* whole Eſtate.

Hitherto

Hitherto have we seen what hath betyded others, and we cannot chuse but fore-see what must betide us, unlesse we betake our selves to a speedy and preventing Remedy; Loc here it is.

1 Let all things be restored in *Statu quo prius.*

2 Let the *Scots* in the name of God, or the Devill that sent them, goe home.

3. Let King *Charles* (in spite of Mr. *Challener*) with honour and safty come home, that every one of us may live quietly at home, and this I am sure is very consistent with the honour of God, and very compatible with the safety, and tranquillity of the Nation.

Salus Regis, & salus Reipublicæ are not onely Twins, but *Gemini*, Inseperable, and individuall; Cursed be those that have hitherto divided them, and blessed be they who seek to Cement, and re-unite them together.

Three things have been the bane of Monarchie.

1 First, Weekely Lectures.

2 Corporations.

3 Trained-bands.

And three things will be the baine of Anarchy.

1 First, your new Modell of Religion.

2 Your new Modell of Government.

3 Your new Broad Seale.

Let three things be undone by you, which have undone us all, and the King shall grant us three things in lieu of them, which shall re-make us.

The three things to be undone by you.

1 First, Let your close Committee, and *Legislative* power which sits in the Chaire thereof (contrary to Law) be damn'd for ever.

2. Let all the Cavaleers be freed from their illegall Sequestrations

3. Let your black Propositions which you lately sent to the King be recal'd back, and burnt by the Hangman.

Three things which the King is to doe.

1. That His Majestie will be pleased to renew, ratifie, and enlarge our Petition of Right.

2. That He will grant you an *Act of oblivion.*

3. That He will remarry His Royall Prerogative, and *Magna Charta* together. *Then seeke peace, and ensue it, and the God*

of peace will grant it. Now that we may avoid those Numbers three, which we finde to be ominous, and embrace those Numbers three which are propitious; Let us apply our selves to that blessed Number three which is in Heaven: and let not your illiterate Synod, dare to meddle with that any more, by any audacious disputation; but rather let us all appeale to him, by an humble Adoration: That so that blessed Trinitie, in unitie may grant Peace to every mans conscience in particular, Peace to the whole Kingdome in generall, and Peace and joy eternall to us hereafter.

Farewell Mr. Challener.

A Letter to the Army.

HOw can you expect an Act of Indemnity? so long as the King remaines in Captivity; the Parliament cannot grant it unto you, for they cannot give it to themselves.

How can you expect money? when you know the Parliament hath been so prodigall in the distribution of such large Proportions to one another, that they have little left to reward you withall.

Is it liberty of conscience you speak for? that you know rests onely in the Kings breast.

Restore the King to his Throne againe, and all these things shall be added to you.

If you neglect this faire opportunitie, The vengeance of God shall dogge you at the heeles. Instead of a Trophie for all your victories, you shall render your selves slaves to the Presbyterian Bondage, who like the Egyptian Task-masters *shall compell you to make Brick in their full tale, and without giving you straw.*

To whom then will you fly for succour, God will abhominate you, and will not help you; Man (especially, Englishmen) *will scorne you, and laugh at your misery.*

Behold, I have set this day before your eyes, *Honour*, and *Dishonour*, being the two sole Rewards of all humane Actions. Consider this timely, and be wise.

Be it unto you according to your Merits.

FINIS.